

Message Text

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46

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-20 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6057

INFO USCINCSO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, MILI, AR

SUBJECT: LANUSSE MAKES FIRST SPEECH SINCE LEAVING OFFICE

1. EX-PRESIDENT AND FORMER ARMY COMMANDER LANUSSE MADE HIS FIRST PUBLIC SPEECH SINCE RELINQUISHING POWER LAST MAY 25. SPEAKING APRIL 5 AT A CEREMONY HONORING THE GENERALS WHO RETIRED DURING 1973, LANUSSE STRONGLY DEFENDED HIS DECISION TO TURN GOVT BACK TO CIVILIAN HANDS, AND EXPRESSED PRIDE IN HAVING CULMINATED HIS POLITICAL CAREER ON THE SAME DAY OF HIS GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT--TURNING POWER BACK TO THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE. ALL ARGENTINES ARE NOW INVOLVED IN THE NATION'S FUTURE AND BOTH NOW AND IN THE FUTURE POWER WILL BE EXERCISED BY THE GENUINE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE.

2. COMMENT: LANUSSE WAS NOT EXPECTED TO MAKE AN ANTI-GOV-ERNMENT SPEECH WHICH COULD ONLY HAVE EMBARRASSED THE ARMY. HOWEVER, THE GENEROUS TONE OF SPEECH AND EXPLICIT SUPPORT FOR CIVILIAN GOVT ADDS VOICE OF ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL FIGURE TO DEFENSE OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND CONCEPT OF CONSENSUS. PERON REPORTEDLY WAS PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR INVITATION TO LANUSSE TO SPEAK ON THIS OCCASION. IF ACCURATE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THIS IS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF PERON'S DESIRE TO MAINTAIN GOOD

RELATIONS WITH THE ARGENTINE MILITARY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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